

DOOR IS LEFT OPEN FOR A FUTURE BID

Garden Anxious to Operate Baseball Team Here or in Some Other City

By WILLIAM R. CONKLIN

Madison Square Garden made formal application yesterday for a New York baseball franchise in the proposed expansion of the National League from eight teams to ten.

The bid was made in a telegram to Warren Giles, the president of the National League. Giles said that no action could be taken on the application at present.

The wire was signed by John J. Bergen, the board chairman of the Garden corporation, and Irving Mitchell Felt, the chairman of the Garden's executive committee. Their message to Giles stressed a preference for New York City, but Bergen later said that the corporation was prepared to operate a team outside New York if necessary.

Both signers said they would welcome an American League franchise here if the second major league also expanded. They said that they were not interested in a New York club in the proposed Continental League nor had they discussed that possibility with William Shea, the founder of the new circuit.

'The More the Merrier'

Shea's first reaction was to welcome the new move on a "the more the merrier" basis. He said no one had approached him as chairman of the Mayor's baseball committee seeking permission to play in the proposed Flushing Stadium.

Madison Square Garden is a division of Graham-Paige, a publicly owned corporation. Because of this, Shea said, baseball authorities might find it difficult to hold any individual responsible for the operation of a new club.

In deferring action on the Garden's application, Giles left open the possibility that a New York franchise might go to the corporation at a later date.

"I appreciate their interest in the National League," the president said, according to United Press International. "But we're not in a position to discuss with anyone at this time an application for a franchise in the National League."

"The more people who want to get a franchise in New York, the better it is," Shea said. "When they say they will play in Yankee Stadium, I can't believe it. If they came to us and applied for Flushing Stadium, I'd believe it more. Until we see who makes the application, we will have to take this with a grain of salt. I don't believe we will have a National League team playing in this city unless the new Flushing Stadium is built."

Talk of Expansion

The embryonic Continental League, already beset by talk of expanding the existing majors, could be eliminated if the Garden got a major league franchise to operate in New York.

Graham-Paige, formerly an automobile manufacturer, is an investment corporation with assets of \$23,500,000, Felt said. Its stock is sold on the New York Stock Exchange. The Garden division represents about one-third of the corporate assets.

"We had no representative at the recent National League meeting," Bergen said. "We did not contemplate this move before expansion of that league became likely. Seven or eight years ago, we did try to buy a 40 per cent interest in the Washington baseball club. We never have been interested in obtaining a Continental League franchise, nor did we ever have any discussion on it."

Asked whether he would seek an American League franchise if a National League franchise was not forthcoming, Bergen said:

"I think so. We are prepared to operate now or next year, for we have been discussing a baseball interest for the last eight or nine years. That interest would not necessarily be confined to New York City, though we prefer New York. We could operate elsewhere."